

the LDC. However, it will be necessary to obtain the agreement of the designated national authority, to inform other LDC parties 6 months in advance, and to ^{provide} prepare an Environmental Assessment Document (EAD) analysing the likely effect upon the environment.

5. The first of the submarines to be decommissioned, DREADNOUGHT, lies at Rosyth, and for this reason it has been agreed that the Scottish Office should be responsible for agreeing the arrangements for disposal. We have prepared an EAD and shown it to the Scottish Office in draft. They have indicated that at official level, they have no objection to the proposals.

SCIENTIFIC REQUIREMENTS

6. The scientific case in favour of sea-disposal has been established by the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) who have prepared a report analysing the radiological consequences of the three chief methods of disposal, dumping at sea, and shallow or deep land burial. The report concluded that sea-disposal gave the lowest risk to individual members of public due to the dilution effect of the ocean, and the low risk of intrusion by man. These conclusions were endorsed by the NRPB Board chaired by Sir Richard Southwood. The US Navy reached a similar view in 1984 after an exhaustive study (although they opted for shallow land burial for political reasons.)

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

7. The experts calculate that the cost per submarine of disposal at sea is around £3 million. The other two options which we have considered are (a) land storage of the reactor compartment and (b) storage of the intact submarine afloat. Both options assume that